

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 11-24 and 28-31. Claims 11, 12, 14-18, 20, and 21 were rejected. Claims 13 and 19 were objected to. Claims 22-24 and 28-31 were allowed. By this Amendment, claims 11 and 21 have been amended, claim 13 has been cancelled, and new claim 32 has been added.

Claims 11, 12, 14-18, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Robbins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,029,828).

Claim 21 was rejected under § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 13 and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 22-24 and 28-31 were allowed.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 11, 12, 14-18, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Robbins. Claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 13. On p. 4 of the Office Action that was mailed on February 18, 2009, Examiner Wood stated that claim 13 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Robbins has been overcome, and that claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 12, 14-18, 20, and 21 depend from independent claim 11. As described above, claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of

claims 12, 14-18, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Robbins has been overcome, and that claims 12, 14-18, 20, and 21 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claim 21 under § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 21 has been amended to recite “the fingers of the first ringpost” and “the notches of the first ringpost.” Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 21 under § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention has been overcome, and that claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the objection to claims 13 and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 13 has been cancelled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claim 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim is moot.

Claim 19 depends from dependent claim 18, which depends from independent claim 11. As described above, claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claim 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim has been overcome, and that claim 19 is in condition for allowance.

The Applicants would like to thank Examiner Wood for allowing claims 22-24 and 28-31.

New claim 32 has been added, and includes all of the limitations of claim 19. On p. 4 of the Office Action that was mailed on February 18, 2009, Examiner Wood stated that claim 19 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 32 is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11, 12, 14-24 and 28-32 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

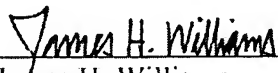
The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants may be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Attorney for Applicants at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 16-0228.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 18, 2009


James H. Williams
Reg. No. 56,883
Attorney for Applicants

Panduit Corp.
Legal Department – TP12
17301 S. Ridgeland Avenue
Tinley Park, Illinois 60477-3091
(708) 532-1800, Ext. 1302